REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. The examiner found in particular that "one skilled artisan would not know how to use and/or make the invention (controlling at least one of an automated clutch and an automated transmission) absent the necessary steps".

Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 stand further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

U.S.C. 103(a), claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. Claims 4 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form.

In response to the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection, the now independent claims 4 and 8 have further been amended to explicitly recite the method steps that are performed by an electronic clutch management system, exactly as disclosed in the specification starting on page 3, line 5:

- "determines a start-up function" (page 3, lines 6-7),
- "delivers the target value for the clutch torque" (line 8), and
- "the start-up function is divided into two phases" (page 4, lines 4-5).

The purpose of this amendment is to more clearly set forth the steps of the claimed method, in a manner that is disclosed and enabled substantially verbatim by the

specification. No new matter is thereby introduced into the application. Applicants respectfully submit that the steps required to carry out the method are clearly recited in claims 4 and 8 (as currently amended) and that the supporting disclosure would enable a person of ordinary skill in the field of automotive control and regulation technology to use and/or make the invention. Consequently, as there are no other grounds for rejecting claims 4 and 8 (as currently amended), applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 4 and 8.

Claim 9 has been voluntarily amended to define the terms n_trsm and n_eng used in the equation SR = n_trsm/n_eng based on antecedent terminology of claim 8.

Claim 11 has been voluntarily amended to recite "said combination of contributing factors" consistent with antecedent terminology used in claim 8.

Claim 12 has been voluntarily amended to replace the term "lower values" with "values ... below 0.7", as supported in the specification on page 6, line 3.

Claim 17 has been voluntarily amended to replace the term "higher values" with "values ... above 0.6", as supported in the specification on page 7, line 12.

Claim 20 has been voluntarily amended to replace the term "a comparatively small amplification parameter (KI3)" with "a smaller amplification parameter (KI3) than the joint integrator", as supported in the specification on page 8, lines 4-14, where the "smaller amplification KI3" is explained in the context of "two regulations implemented by the same integrator" (joint integrator) and an additional integrator with a smaller amplification KI3.

Application No.: 10/617,248 12 Docket No.: 03191/000M964-US0

Claim 23 has been voluntarily amended to correct the lack of antecedent in "the so-called wind-up."

The voluntary amendments of claims 9, 11, 12, 17, 20 and 23 were made only for the purpose of reciting the features of the claimed invention in a clear and formally correct manner. No new matter is thereby introduced in the application.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 9 to 34 (including current amendments) should be allowed because they depend on the presumably allowable independent claim 8.

In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that all open issues of the Office Action of March 30, 2004 have been appropriately addressed and that in applicants' view the present application should now be in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Kupper, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 34,954

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant